

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicants do not amend the application, but submit the following remarks and seek reconsideration thereof. In this response, no claims have been added, no claims have been cancelled, and no claims have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-8 are pending.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,084,471 to Ruth, Jr. *et al.* (“Ruth”). Applicants respectfully disagree for the following reasons.

In order to anticipate a claim, the relied upon reference must disclose every limitation of the claim. Among other limitations, independent claim 1 recites a current shared circuit for receiving the currents from the voltage-current converter and controlling output currents values depending on first and second control voltages. Applicants submit that Ruth at least fails to teach the element of “controlling output currents values depending on the first and second control voltages” recited in claim 1.

In making the rejection, the Examiner characterizes the current amplifier of Fig. 2 as the current shared circuit, and asserts that the current amplifier has the function of the current shared circuit of claim 1. Even if this characterization is valid, the Examiner has not identified and Applicants have been unable to discern anywhere in Ruth that teaches the use of two control voltages in connection with controlling the output currents values. At most, Ruth teaches one control voltage (bias voltage 218) for shifting the inputs of a differential pair (Fig. 2 and col. 4, lines 40-42). In contrast to the claimed “first and second control voltages” and “output currents,” Ruth teaches one control voltage for controlling input currents. Thus, Ruth cannot anticipate claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1.

In regard to claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 depends from independent claim 1 and incorporates the limitations thereof. Thus, at least for the reasons mentioned above in regard to claim 2, Ruth does not anticipate each of the elements of claim 2. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of claim 2 are requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 3-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. However, Applicants respectfully submit that as claim 1 is in condition for allowance based on the foregoing reasons, claims 3-8, which depend from claim 1 and incorporate the limitations thereof, are allowable at least for the reasons mentioned in regard to claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of claims 3-8 are requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely claims 1-8 patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207 3800.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOLOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 13, 2005.


Lillian E. Rodriguez

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